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RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 6773  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 0589  
RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 7290  
RHMFISS/FBI WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAWJA/JUSTICE DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR CA: CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2019  
TAGS: [AORC](#) [CASC](#) [KOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: SAVOIE CASE: PROMPTING JAPAN ON THE HAGUE

Classified By: DCM James P. Zumwalt per 1.4 (b, d)

(C) "We need to make additional progress on child abduction issues," DCM told Deputy Foreign Minister Bessho on October 11. He noted that the tragic Savoie case in Fukuoka had only highlighted the urgent need for the United States and Japan to agree on a mechanism for parents to resolve their disagreements over child custody issues. DCM pointed out that we would like to follow up on Vice Foreign Minister Yabunaka's offer to A/S Campbell and Ambassador Roos to start a study group on this issue soon. Bessho replied that MOFA was well aware of this issue. The Japanese Consulate in Nashville and the Embassy in Washington had been reporting on US media play about the Savoie case. MOFA had briefed Foreign Minister Okada on this issue. While Japan would need to study the matter further, and in particular the implications for Japanese civil law, FM Okada had seemed favorably inclined to Japan adopting the Hague Convention on International Child Abductions. DCM said he appreciated this insight, but added that we needed to make progress on this issue soon.  
ROOS